

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 0029

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS

1. IN THE COURSE OF MY MEETING DECEMBER 27 WITH DEFENSE
PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ANDERS THUNBORG, AT WHICH WE
DISCUSSED US-SWEDISH TALKS ON MILITARY PRODUCTION COOPERA-
TION AND HIS RECENT VISIT TO BELGRADE WITH FOREGIN MINISTER
ANDERSSON, MY SWEDISH INTERLOCUTOR DEVELOPED A LINE OF
LEADING QUESTIONS SUGGESTING THAT HE (AND THE GOS) WOULD
VIEW WITH EQUANIMITY DEVELOPMENTS IN ITALY WHICH WOULD
RESULT IN THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S "JOINING THE GOVERNMENT
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COALITION".

2. THUNBORG REMARKED THAT WESTERN EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES SEEMED INCREASINGLY INCLINED TO ADOPT POLICIES INDEPENDENT OF THE SOVIET UNION. SWEDES, HE SAID, WONDER WHETHER THE U.S. WOULD USE ITS "VETO POWER" IF THE QUESTION OF PCI PARTICIPATION IN THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AROSE, FOR THE PCI HAD LONG PARTICIPATED IN MANY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND REPRESENTS ONE FOURTH OF THE POPULATION.

3. DESPITE HIS GENERALIZATION, THUNBORG DID NOT VENTURE INTO SPECIFICS (E.G. RE FRANCE, SWEDEN, ETC.) EXCEPT THAT HE CLASSED THE PORTUGUESE CP AS MOSCOW-SUBSERVIENT AND THE SPANISH CP AS INDEPENDENT. HE SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER PALME'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISER, PIERRE SCHORI, HAD REPRESENTED THE SWEDISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY AT THE RECENT CONGRESS OF PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST PARTY. THE SWEDES NOTED, THUNBORG SAID, THAT THE PORTUGUESE CP LEADER CUNHAL DID NOT ADDRESS THE CONGRESS, BUT THAT THE SPANISH CP LEADER CARRILLO DID.

COMMENT: IT IS QUESTIONABLE WHETHER THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT OR THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, OR LEADING PERSONALITIES IN EITHER OF THESE INTER-LOCKING GROUPS, HAVE DEVELOPED A PONDERED POSITION ON CP PARTICIPATION IN WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS. IT IS LIKELY THAT RESPONSIBLE SWEDISH LEADERS WILL TAKE A COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY APPROACH. IT IS CERTAIN THAT THE ISSUE IS OF INTENSE INTEREST TO SWEDISH LEADERS, AND THAT THE SWEDES ARE CAPABLE OF EXERTING SOME INFLUENCE ON THE ATTITUDES OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATS IN WESTERN EUROPE. STOCKHOLM WOULD WELCOME BEING KEPT INFORMED OF US AND THIRD-COUNTRY POSITIONS ON THIS ISSUE. STRAUSSZ-HUPE

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